Ed Earl he looked like he had walked right out of a cowboy picture show. Tall and handsome. He had blonde hair then . . . Remember? I never told nobody this before, Jewel, but he took me down to Galveston for a night.

JEWEL. Is that right?

MISS MONA. It was Kennedy's inauguration and we watched it on television in a hotel room. That was high cotton for me, fresh out of the panhandle. I'd never seen salt water. I remember the sun was shinin' and the water out in the Gulf was so blue it ached my eyes. The sun was shinin' on Kennedy, too, but it must have been some kind of cold up there because Kennedy's breath made little clouds of smoke when it hit the cold air. That's how I remember that day. We had a champagne brunch and I ordered Eggs Benedict, which I thought sounded mighty high-toned. I didn't even realize the chef had messed up the hollandaise sauce. (*A beat.*) When he brought me back here, he pulled a gown out of a bag and kinda poked it at me like it might bite him, and said, "Here, Cakes. This here's for you." He never was worth a damn at grammar. But I never felt more like . . . Cinderella. Oh, maybe it was no more than a bread and butter note. But I remember the sun and that blue, blue water and President Kennedy's breath makin' little clouds of smoke. (*Bringing herself out of the memory.*) And the worst fuckin' Eggs Benedict I ever put on my tongue!

(JEWEL *laughs.*)

MISS MONA. (*Continued.*) Naw, Jewel, Ed Earl's never played in the major leagues before and maybe he's not cut out for it. Not now, anyway. Not anymore.

JEWEL. I'm real sorry for the troubles you've been havin', Miss Mona.

MISS MONA. Jewel hunny, don't feel sorry for me. No, I started out poor and worked my way up to outcast. You just got to learn not to expect nothin' out of life.

"NO LIES"

WERE YOU FIXING TO SAY A LITTLE SOMETHING
'BOUT
HOW LIFE DON'T SEEM TOO FAIR?
DON'T EVEN START
DON'T EVEN START

WERE YOU LOOKING TO GET A LITTLE
DISAPPOINTED
TEARDROP GOING THERE?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH
PLEASE DON'T TOUCH MY HEART

WHO SAID LIFE WAS A ROLLER COASTER?
WHO SAID LIFE WAS SWEET SURPRISE?
WHO SAID LIFE WAS A CIRCUS POSTER?
NOT ME!
NOT ME!
SO, ASK ME NO QUESTIONS
GIVE ME NO ANSWERS
AND I'LL TELL YOU NO LIES

JEWEL.
WERE YOU GETTING YOURSELF A LITTLE MOODY
'CAUSE
SOME FOLKS ARE DOWNRIGHT MEAN?
OH ME, OH MY, AIN'T THAT A SHAME?
WERE YOU STARTIN' TO MAKE A LITTLE SPEECH
ABOUT
THE TROUBLES THAT YOU'VE SEEN?
PLEASE SPARE ME THAT SAD SELF PITY GAME

WHO SAID LIFE WAS A BOWL OF BERRIES
WHO SAID LIFE WAS PEACH ICE CREAM?
WHO SAID LIFE WAS A BOX OF CHERRIES?
NOT ME!
NOT ME!
SO ASK ME NO QUESTIONS
GIVE ME NO ANSWERS
I'LL SELL YOU NO DREAMS

MISS MONA AND JEWEL.
WERE YOU THINKING THAT YOU WERE GONNA
MAYBE HAVE
TO LEAVE THIS LOVELY TOWN?
BEGIN AGAIN
HIT ONE MORE SPOT
WERE YOU FEELING A LITTLE LIKE A BABY WHO
JUST GOT